

Professional skill development has different meanings for different individuals. Our path can be very different from one another but the only thing that we have in common is that we need employability skills in order to achieve what we want from our career. I believe that participating in classes, hearing other stories, maybe similar with yours and engaging in classroom conversation will enhance your skills and abilities and why not discovering new qualities and having a different mindset. According to Gravells, A (2010) "Employability skills are a requirement for employment and are essential at all stages and levels of your learners' career development". Further I would like to write a personal reflection about what I learned since I joined the Professional development class regarding my professional career.

First, I would like to start with my personality type. After attending the classes for the Professional development skills, I found out that I am a Pragmatist mainly combined with a Reflector personality which it made me do my SWOT analyses based on what I learned that day. Taking everything in consideration and thinking about my last 10 years on the work field I was able to put my strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats. In my personal opinion, the SWOT analyses would help to see better what I have, what I need to improve, what I want and what is stopping me from reaching my goal. According to Gallagher(2022) "There are 3 perspectives of employability that need to be considered reasonable postgraduate employability: Skills possession, position and process". For example, in my apprenticeship being a deck cadet my main responsibility was correcting maps and also try to learn everything about the ship s hull.

Although my communication skills are my biggest strengths which it helps me in the work environment that I was, (spending 6 -8 months at sea), my weakness was that I was not able to take charge when it needed. I was always afraid of taking too much responsibility and acknowledging that I could damage the company in a way or another based on the decision that I was making. I had opportunities of progressing but because of my fear of not taking decision, I had to take a step back and letting my co-workers deal with this responsibility. One of the biggest threats for myself and had to deal with the rejection, even though I knew that I was capable of doing the job.

Based on my previous experience, I also decided to analyses myself using the JOHARI WINDOW. Another example of professional development learned in class, and a way to know myself and what others also know about me. Although, I believe that my work ethic is impeccable, that doesn't t make you a good employee. The Johari Window, is an exercise that its s going to improve my employability skills and also the environment that I m working. I am a person that is sharing and I would like to think about myself that I am an open-minded person, but what I learned doing the Johari Window is need to be more open and engage in conversations with my co-workers about things that we have in common. I tried this exercise at my current work job and I found things about myself that I didn't t knew. For example, although I am a very ambitious person and straightforward, some of my co-worker's thought

that the tone of my voice is demanding. Definitely, something that I need to work on it in order to maintain a good relationship.

In my Open area I have good problem-solving skills, I would always find a way to fix every type of situation, I m responsible and my peers know it as well. My communication skills are my strengths so I think they feel that I m a very approachable person and very friendly. I am confident in what I'm doing and I love learning new ways to fix the problems that occur. My hidden section would probably refer to my fear of working in teams, even though I believe I m doing a good job I would actually prefer to do it myself. I believe that I m doing a better job myself and I m afraid to give the others that responsibility. Something that I'm working at, and something that my class helped with is that I was able to join communities and also LinkedIn Learning in order to improve this fear. Leadership affects our daily perception of our working environment. (Cottrell,S. 2021)

Finally, the unknow area probably would be determined about the indecision that I have about pursuing another career or staying with the engineer one and trying to progress. The class helped me put in balance my strength and weakness and working towards the goal that I need to accomplish. This is coming from the fear of unknow, but the experience that I manage to gathered by attending classes and also the knowledge that I learned so far make me to come up with a plan to structure my professional career development. Signing in for this class was my first step into realizing that I need the help and guidance from my teachers, gave me confidence and reassuring after attending first day that was the right decision and everything that I learned by now I m trying to put in me to practice not only to enhance my skills but also developing them and discovering new one that were hidden.

In the plan that I'd make for myself; I also decide to put my SMART goals. Following my plan, I decided that I would like to dig deeper about everything that means Employability Skills and also continue to study and to finish this year being in the top 5 students. The professional development skills Is a class that could bring up the best version of myself, something that I'm very determined to find out. Further, I would like to involve myself more at the current job that I have and also trying to have an honest conversion with my manager about the goals that I set for myself. I believe that creating opportunities for ourself is the right way to go. The goals that I ve set for myself, are achievable and from now on I could only progress.

At my first class, I found out about the Gibbs Reflective cycle. I was doing it constantly but not realizing it. To have a successful course of studying , the development of analytical skills is crucial (Dawson.C, 2014). Now that I know, I would like to share that I have a different appreciation for the class and what its s being taught, it didn't t make sense when I first read the title of the class but after the first session everything became clear. The methods of analysing are the reasons that I created an entire professional plan for myself and my career going forward. Being overwhelmed at the beginning and excited and the end, that were my feelings

at the beginning of this year of Employability Skills class. My feedback about what I've been learning until now is positive but also for myself the adjustment time frame was not enough in order to consider everything that has been taught. After analysing everything, I am more determined than to pursue everything that this year has to offer.

According to Cameron, S. (2021) "Clear objectives for reading are as important as for anything else. While it is important to read for interest and pleasure, you also need more focused reading for assignments". With everything that I've learned so far, I've already improved at my current job. This class has helped me until now, to know and also to give more credit to myself. I have a vast experience in the maritime field and I managed to transfer all my skills to an engineering job and also being promoted at my current job.

In conclusion, we all need Employability Skills, not only to enhance our skills but also trying to motivate ourselves in the work field. If we feel that we possess these skills, after our years of studying, enhancing should be noticed on the 7 pillars: Identify, Scope, Plan, Gather, Evaluate, Manage, Present (McMillan, Weyers 2021). After graduating and applying all the methods that we learned at the Professional Development class, such as SWOT analyses, SMART, Gibbs Reflective cycle, personalities and also type learners I would consider that we have all the necessary skills to progress in our career and also changing paths.

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